

# Walk, Bike and EXPLORE



## HISTORICAL ROUTE .99 miles

This walking route was created to encourage walking and exploring throughout the beautiful area of Garfield, MN. The Garfield Elementary School assembled it as part of SHIP, our statewide health improvement efforts, in creating communities that support healthy choices.



# Historical ROUTE .99 miles



**Train Depot/Central Lakes Trail Head** – In 1879 the Great Northern Railroad pushed westward through Garfield. By late fall, trains were passing through Garfield almost daily. The modern depot was built in 1886, and completely rebuilt in 1955. It was moved to a homestead in 1973 and is currently in Leaf Valley. In 2004 the current trail shelter was built. The Central Lakes Trail is a 55 mile-long paved trail from Fergus Falls to Osakis on the old railroad line.



**Farmers Cooperative Elevator Association** – In 1880 local farmers organized the Farmers Cooperative Elevator Association. In 1910, the association purchased the line elevator where the present one stands. In May of 1982, a fire destroyed elevator #1, including the office and feed facilities. Today, Pro Ag is a feed mill that makes 20,000 tons of feed yearly, and a grain elevator that handles 700,000 bushels of corn, wheat, oats, barley and soybeans each year.



**Post Office** – According to records, the first mail to this vicinity was carried by stagecoach. The post office was housed in the Johnson's Grocery building in the early years until the new post office was built and opened on July 2, 1990.



**Johnson's Grocery Store** – Johnson's Grocery served the Garfield community in the same location for 100 years, from 1886-1996, for four generations. Tragedy struck on January 31, 1928, fire broke out which burned the entire block, with the exception of the brick bank on the corner. Luckily the store was insured and was re-built on the same location.



*Garfield was named in honor of President Garfield, who was shot by the assassin Guiteau July 2, 1881, and died at Elberon, New Jersey on September 19, a few months before the founding of this village.*

**For Additional Routes Check Online at**

[www.westcentralwellness.org](http://www.westcentralwellness.org)

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# Walk, Bike

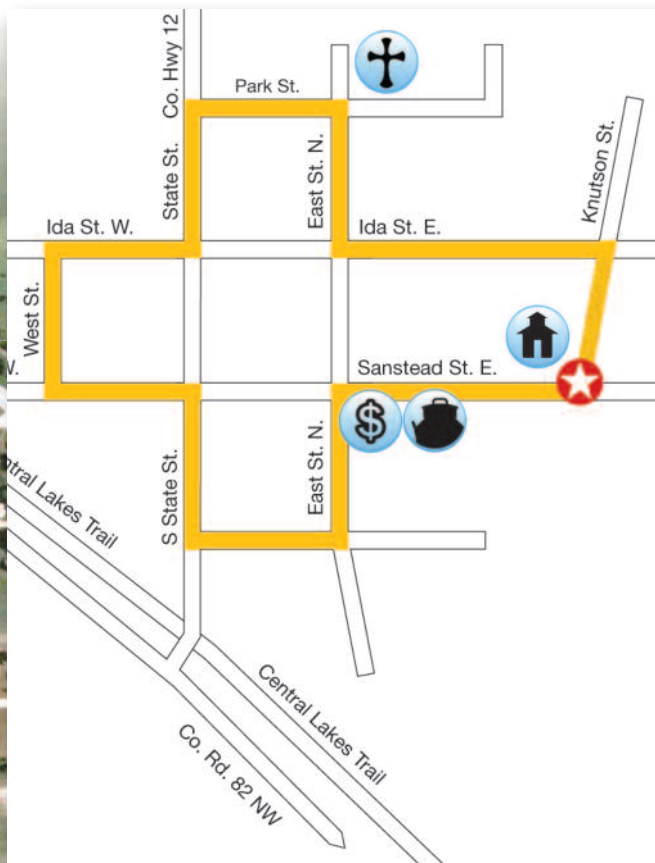
Garfield

## and EXPLORE



### SCHOOL ROUTE 1 mile

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# School ROUTE

1 mile



**Garfield Elementary School** – The first school house, which was built in 1905, had two teachers and 42 pupils. In 1916 a large red-brick building was and remained as the school until 1969. In 1969 there was a bonding bill approved for an addition, which became the current school used today. In 1971, Garfield consolidated with District 206.



**Garfield Cooperative Creamery Association** – Organized in 1895, the creamery association was one of the first buildings in Garfield. The Garfield Creamery served the area until January 1979, winning many awards over the years for its fine butter. The building was sold in 1980, and in 2000 it was renovated into an apartment building, which is still in use today.



**Bank /Grocery Store** – 1905 marked the founding of the Garfield State Bank, with a capital stock of \$10,000. The bank closed in 1932 and became the Garfield Cash Grocery store. During the fire of 1928, this was the only building left standing on the entire block.



**St. Lukes Church** – Swedish settlers organized the Lake Ida Lutheran congregation (now St. Lukes) on May 17, 1869, 2 ½ miles NE of Garfield. The building was destroyed by a fire on Christmas Day of 1921. The following year the red brick building St. Luke's Lutheran Church was built.

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